

**House Bill 2 Amendment**  
**Section E (Education)**

EXHIBIT 6  
DATE 11/26/07  
HB Z - approp / Edu

**Bureau of Mines and Geology (MT Tech @ Butte)**  
**Ground-Water Assessment Program**  
**New Proposals**

**Background:** Ground-Water Assessment is funded from the following sources:

- \$300,000 annually from the Resource Indemnity Trust interest.
- \$366,000 annually from the RIGWA tax proceeds.
- \$666,000 total funding (89-2-905 MCA) capped at the level proposed in 1991.
- The 59<sup>th</sup> Legislature recognized that the program had been on fixed funding for two biennia and awarded OTO funds from RIT corpus in excess of the constitutionally required \$100 million to cover increased costs of personal services and travel, and to replace field equipment. (*Legislative Fiscal Division Budget Analysis for the 2009 Biennium: Pages C-141 and E-180*)
- The HJR 36 study, authorized by the 59<sup>th</sup> Legislature, resulted in HB 116 which if passed will modify 89-2-905 MCA to remove the funding cap so that the program can seek additional funding, either to support present law adjustments or for new proposals that could expand program services. (*Legislative Fiscal Division Budget Analysis for the 2009 Biennium: Pages C-140-141 and E-180*)

**Proposal:** Upon passage and approval of HB 116, such that the cap on distributions to the Bureau of Mines and Geology is lifted from the RIT interest and RIGWA funds, the following decision packages are approved and the amounts they represent will be appropriated in the HB 2 line item for the Bureau:

- **DP 1 Maintain program funding:** In FY 2007 the Assessment Program received OTO dollars of \$69,038 to support personnel and operations. If the OTO funds can not be replaced, program funding will fall by 9.4 percent in FY 2008 to \$666,000.
- **DP 2 Support proposed pay plans:** Current pay plan proposals are for increases of 3.6% each year of the biennium for personnel services. (about 7.2% total).
- **DP 3 Operations support:** Increase travel 2% annually to cover increased gasoline, and other operations costs.

**Budget Request:**

Request to approve the following:

Number	Description	FY 2008	FY 2009	Biennial total
NP 1	Maintain FY2007 funding level.	\$69,038	\$105,076	\$174,114
NP 2	Pay Plan support	\$32,128	\$65,412	\$97,540
NP 3	Operations support	\$2,672	\$5,398	\$8,070
	Totals	\$103,838	\$175,886	\$279,724

**Comments:**

- This plan would hold the program at its FY 2007 level and cover pay plan and operations increases in the 2009 biennium.
- **Fund: 02289.**